

REMARKS

In the present amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 1-27 and added new claims 28-45. Specifically, the presently claims invention is directed to a light reflecting particle or a detergent composition comprising the light reflecting particle and one or more detergent ingredients; the light reflecting particle comprises a particular component comprising a metal salt and a light reflecting component comprising a mixture of mica and TiO₂ having a weight ratio of from about 2:1 to about 50:1, or a mixture of BiOCl and mica at a weight ratio of about 1:2 such that the light reflecting particle exhibits a specular visible light reflection that is of higher intensity than the specular visible light reflection of the particulate component. Support for the new claims are found in the original claims and specification, especially the Examples on pages 48-49.

No new matter has been added by the amendments. Entry is believed to be proper and respectfully requested.

Upon the entry of the present amendment, Claims 28-45 are pending. No additional claims fee is believed due.

REJECTIONS

Rejection Under 35 USC §112, second paragraph

Claims 25-27 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, Claims 25-27 depend from canceled claims.

Claims 25-27 have been canceled. Thus, the rejection is moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 USC §102

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 13, 18, 19, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102, alleging the claims are anticipated by WO 96/38527 (hereinafter "WO '527") The Examiner states that WO '527 discloses enzyme containing granulated substances for use in laundry detergent. Specifically, Examiner states that Example 1 discloses an enzyme powder is coated with titanium oxide and sodium chloride, using polyethylene glycol as a binder.

Applicant submits that WO '527 does not disclose a light reflecting particle that comprises a particulate component comprising a metal salt and a light reflecting component comprising a mixture of mica and TiO₂ or a mixture of BiOCl and mica at the claimed weight ratios. Therefore, WO '527 does not anticipate the presently claimed invention.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that the rejection is overcome. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejection Under 35 USC §103.

Claims 1, 13, 15, 18-20 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over US 6,313,080 to Boskamp et al. (hereinafter "Boskamp"). The Examiner states that Boskamp discloses a detergent tablet made of compacted particulate detergent compositions wherein the fabric conditioning agent is present in one zone of the tablet at a greater concentration than in another zone, for example, the zone may be a core 22 or a surface layer 20; suitable fabric conditioning agent include micas. Boskamp also discloses other components, such as colorants, speckles, sodium citrate dihydrate. The Examiner states that though specific examples in Boskamp uses bentonite, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use mica in place of bentonite as the fabric softener.

Applicant submits that there is no teaching or suggestion in Boskamp of a light reflecting particle that comprises a particular component comprising a metal salt and a light reflecting component comprising a mixture of mica and TiO₂ or a mixture of BiOCl and mica at the claimed weight ratios. Applicant further submits that one could find no motivation in Boskamp to produce such a light reflecting particle. Therefore, Boskamp does not render the presently claimed invention obvious.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that the rejection is overcome. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest effort to place the present claims in condition for allowance. WHEREFORE, entry of the amendments provided herewith, reconsideration of the claims as amended in light of the Remarks provided, withdrawal of the claims rejections, and allowance of Claims 28-45 are respectfully requested.

In the event that issues remain prior to allowance of the noted claims, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's undersigned attorney to discuss any remaining issues.

Respectfully Submitted,

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December 15, 2003
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